

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for melting treatment of radioactive metals, said melting treatment being performed for separating steel-based metal and nuclear fuel substances from radioactive steel-based metal wastes, comprising:

~~the step of separating said nuclear fuel substances as oxide by melting said steel-based metallic wastes to oxidize said nuclear fuel substances by oxygen in an atmospheric air; and~~
separating said nuclear fuel substances as oxide.

Claim 2 (Original): A method for melting treatment of radioactive metals according to claim 1, wherein said steel-based metal is hull made of stainless alloy.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method for melting treatment of radioactive metals according to claim 1, wherein said nuclear fuel substances are separated ~~as oxides while suppressing a percentage content of aluminum~~ through the said melting of the steel-based wastes having a cladding tube being low in aluminum content.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method for melting treatment of radioactive metals according to claim 2, wherein said nuclear fuel substances are separated ~~as oxides while suppressing a percentage content of aluminum~~ through the said melting of the steel-based wastes having a cladding tube being low in aluminum content.

Claim 5 (Original): A method for melting treatment of radioactive metals according to claim 1, wherein said nuclear fuel substances are uranium.

Claim 6 (Original): A method for melting treatment of radioactive metals according to claim 1, wherein said steel-based metal wastes are melted by being heated to a temperature not lower than a melting point thereof.

Claim 7 (Original): A method for melting treatment of radioactive metals according to claim 6, wherein said temperature is in a range of from 1500 to 1650 degrees centigrade.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method for melting treatment of radioactive metals according to claim 1, wherein ~~an~~ said atmospheric air or ~~the one including~~ includes a slight amount of an argon gas ~~is introduced when melting said steel-based metal wastes.~~

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A method for melting treatment of radioactive metals according to claim 1, wherein said nuclear fuel substances are separated as a slag of oxides, and then recycled through a reprocessing step.